

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/809,027

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Applicant(s)

HUNSINGER, GARY

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 6/11/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-28 (renumbered as 1-8 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

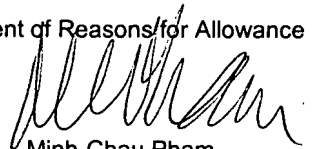
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-28 allowed.

The closest relevant arts are by Rotheiser et al (5,935,281), Ham (6,991,112 B2), Merritt et al (5,919,279), Keller et al (5,509,948), Dudley et al (5,275,636) and Boeckermann et al (5,112,372).

Rotheiser et al teach an air cleaner (10) comprising a lower retaining segment (16), an upper retaining segment (18) and a filtration member (20), and the lower retaining segment further comprises an air cleaner coupling means for coupling the air cleaner to the air cleaner receptacle, and the lower retaining means segment and the air coupling means being integrally formed from a single material (see 80A in Figs. 1 & 3). Rotheiser et al further teach the coupling means further comprising threaded portion (see Figs. 1 & 3). Rotheiser et al also teach a method of coupling an air cleaner to an air receptacle comprising the steps of inserting a coupling means into a threaded receptacle means, rotating the air cleaner within an air cleaner receptacle until adequate secured.

Ham teaches an air cleaner having a lower retaining segment (14b), an upper retaining segment (14a), a filtration member (12), an air cleaner coupling means – projections not labeled (in Fig. 6a) integral with lower retaining segment (14b), and the filter cartridge is disposable (see col. 5, line 50).

Merritt et al (5,919,279), Keller et al (5,509,948), Dudley et al (5,275,636) and Boeckermann et al (5,112,372).

Merritt et al teach an air cleaner having a lower retaining segment (46), an upper retaining segment (44), a filtration member (18), an air cleaner coupling means (62) integral with lower retaining segment (46) (see details of Fig. 2).

Keller et al teach an air cleaner (16) having a lower retaining segment (15), an upper retaining segment (14), a filtration member (20), an air cleaner coupling means (28) integral with lower retaining segment (15), and the filter cartridge is disposable (first line of Abstract) (see details of Fig. 1).

Dudley et al teach an air cleaner having a lower retaining segment (22), an upper retaining segment (20), a filtration member (14), an air cleaner coupling integral with lower retaining segment (22), and the filter cartridge is disposable (see first line of the Abstract) (see details of Fig. 1).

Boeckermann et al teach an air cleaner having a lower retaining segment (20), an upper retaining segment (19), a filtration member (16), an air cleaner coupling (24) integral with lower retaining segment (20) (see details of Fig. 1).

Claims 21-28 of this instant patent application differ from the disclosure of any one of the cited prior arts above in that the filtration member further comprises a support member inserted in the annular groove.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

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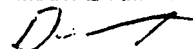
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724
July 20, 2007

DUANE SMITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER


7-24-07